

MOTOR DRIVERS AND ALCOHOL.

The holidays have brought the usual crop of accidents, and in many of the motor smashes strong drink was a great factor. The Stipendiary Magistrate, in Wellington, gave this from the Bench as his considered opinion: "The man who attempts to drive a motor car after having a drink of spirits is a fool."

In every place magistrates are increasing the penalties and issuing warnings. But, why not make it a condition of granting a driver's license, that a man or woman must be a total abstainer?

That other countries are awake to the menace of the alcoholic driver, the following shows:—

From a Card Issued by the Berlin Police Authorities.

1. The arduous and responsible calling of the motor driver makes it necessary for him to abstain completely from all alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits, etc.), both before and during his work.

2. The smallest quantities of alcohol are injurious for the motor driver. It is a widespread error that small quantities have no deleterious effect. On the contrary they cause at first an increase of self-confidence, followed by premature fatigue, and this weakens his capacity for swift discrimination and reaction in the presence of danger.

3. A large proportion of motor accidents are due to the consumption of quite small quantities of alcohol.

4. Larger quantities of alcohol increase the danger and lead finally to intoxication and rash and foolish actions.

5. The license will be refused in all cases to persons inclined to intemperance.

6. Driving while under the influence of alcohol is strictly forbidden. Any driver found to be in a state of intoxication during his work will be placed under arrest and his car taken in charge by the police. If he is proven to be drunk, his license will be withdrawn.

7. The most serious accidents occur in the case of so-called "joy rides," in which alcohol regularly plays a part. In these cases, the driver is liable to a heavy penalty and the withdrawal of his license.

8. Every driver who does not totally abstain from the use of alcohol is not only a danger to himself and his fellows, but brings misfortune on his family.

THINKING IT OUT.

(An address by Miss A. M. McLay.)

We often say "I think," and we have not thought at all. We have merely jumped to a conclusion. To think is to get one's ideas into orderly arrangement, one idea following another, and approaching a conclusion gradually by working out the problem. But thinking deeply is like praying earnestly—it costs—and we are very often not willing to pay the cost.

It has been said that the great impediment to thinking things out is prejudice or bias, and that in presenting a case to our own minds, or the minds of others, we are constantly emphasising certain facts and subduing others. The corrective to bias is to study calmly all sides of a question, and if we will take the time and trouble to so study the Drink Evil in our Dominion, I think we will find this is a problem upon which neither prejudice nor bias influence us. We can come to only one satisfactory conclusion, namely, that the solution to the problem of the drink evil is the abolition of the Liquor Traffic. We can safely say about this traffic that it has not one argument in its favour. There is no logical reason why it should be allowed to go on its wicked way, a menace and a hindrance to everything which makes for the moral and social uplift of the people.

On the basis of feeling all thinking begins. I feel, therefore I think! And just as thought rests in feeling, so it should issue in action. I think, therefore I act! What is wanted these days is deep feeling carried into clear, honest thinking, and issuing in action. What a revolution there would be in New Zealand if the Christian womanhood of the Dominion would all enlist in the noble army of White Ribboners, which is the only women's organisation raising its voice against the curse of alcohol.

"The drink problem ought to be right up in the forefront of thought and prayer and intensive effort in the outlook and programme of every Christian, and also of the Church to which we belong."

The fact that our doing is so feeble and erratic, and often so mischievous, is due not so much to lack of feeling as to

our mental indisposition for thinking things out.

The abolition of the Liquor Traffic is a woman's question, and the W.C.T.U. is the "Big" Woman's Organisation, which is endeavouring to make the women think. It is a "Big Business," not merely national, but world-wide. It is doing business not in New Zealand only, but in almost every country in the world. It is not selling merely perishable commodities, but it is moulding imperishable destinies. It is rendering "essential national service." It started out to do battle against the liquor evil, and in its great crusade brought to the fore a woman who will ever be notable as a leader. Frances Willard, and many since her day, have proved that a woman can be great in public spirit, in reform movements, and in leadership. It is a conserving and stimulating force in the Dominion, for it has high ideals and a serious purpose. It has a creditable and notable record of achievements, and for over half a century has triumphed over insurmountable difficulties.

Its members shall never lack the inspiration and the guarantee of unity if they keep their eyes fixed on the basis of the business and the purpose of the business "we come to uplift."

AUCKLAND DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

The Auckland District Executive of the Women's Christian Temperance Union met at afternoon tea at John Court's on Thursday, 5th of December, to bid farewell to Mrs Pirrett, the late President of Epsom Branch, who was leaving Auckland to reside in Christchurch. Eulogistic references were made to Mrs Pirrett's valuable services, so consistently rendered to our organisation and the Temperance cause generally, and as a token of appreciation, Mrs Morgan Richards (Vice-President) presented the guest of the afternoon with a beautiful bouquet of sweet peas.

DO IT NOW!

When you've got a job to do,

Do it now!

If it's one you wish was through,

Do it now!

If you're sure the job's your own,

Just tackle it alone,

Don't hem and haw and groan,

Do it now!